

Ostentaciously "FalseOswald" at New Orleans Airport 5/10/69

Yesterday I phoned Walter Ballard, who is copying COUP for me. He asked me to phone back because the man who had it in his possession was not in. I did, in the p.m. The man was not there yet, but Ballard told me of this remarkable coincidence:

After he finished the first conversation, he turned to a man who was there and told him of me and my work and of the books, which he has read. I understood the name to be Helmstrom, and that the man is a retired admiral. The admiral immediately said he had his own reasons for not believing the Warren Report, and he still does not. In the afternoon I spoke to the admiral, who was again or still there, and he told me, this story-

He has a friend who has a friend, a woman, who was at the New Orleans airport during the summer of 1963. At the ticket counter there was a very loud man who was identifying himself as "Oswald" who was conspicuously asking, so everyone could hear, if he could bring a rifle back from Mexico. The woman was apparently a young woman, getting a ticket to Mexico City. When she saw Ruby kill Oswald on TV she knew this was similar to but not the Oswald of the airport incident. She spoke to the FBI, was very little or not at all interested.

(I asked that he get permission to give me the name so I could speak to the woman, seek the FBI reports, and show her a series of pictures to see if she could identify the man claiming to be Oswald. He said he would see if he could get permission to give me the identification.)

The admiral also said he knew someone with first-hand knowledge who told him that (the military?) the President's phone was bugged. This source said he heard the tapes. He says he heard a tape of Johnson as soon as he got back to Washington, calling "a certain number in New York" and saying "Boys, don't shoot me, I', your man". The admiral asked me if I had ever noted that every President who is as he put it opposed to a certain group of top bankers is killed in office. He described them as men who have run the country or the world for 300-350 years.

The airport incident has a familiar ring. And it is a possible explanation of the FBI's interest in those on flight out of New Orleans prior to the time Oswald could have left. The admiral is to be in touch with me again. I told him how to reach me.